

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A clevis assembly for a medical instrument comprising:
a clevis having a base and a plurality of arms extending from the base;
and
an axle to extend between the plurality of arms,
wherein each of the plurality of arms is configured to accommodate a portion of the axle,
wherein an end of the axle includes a flared portion to engage a[[n]] first outer surface of one of the plurality of arms,
wherein the axle has a deformed portion at an end of the axle opposite the flared portion,
wherein the deformed portion lies on a[[n]] second outer surface of another of the plurality of arms, and
wherein the second outer surface is not a surface facing a hole or a U-shaped groove to receive the axle, the hole or U-shaped groove being defined by the another of the plurality of arms.
2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the axle is configured to accommodate at least a portion of an end effector assembly.

3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flared portion engages the first outer surface of one of the plurality of arms so as to prevent the axle from moving longitudinally relative to the plurality of arms.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of arms defines a hole to receive the axle.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flared portion is a flange.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of arms defines a U-shaped groove to receive the axle.

8. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of arms defines a hole and another of the plurality of arms defines a U-shaped groove, the hole and groove for receiving the axle.

9. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the axle includes a second flared portion to engage an outer surface of another of the plurality of arms.

10. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a reinforcing portion on at least one of the plurality of arms.

11. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the reinforcing portion includes a portion of the arm displaced outwardly.

12. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument comprising:

a handle portion;

an end effector assembly; and

an elongate member connecting the handle portion to the end effector assembly,

wherein the end effector assembly comprises:

a clevis having a base and a plurality of arms extending from the base; and

an axle to extend between the plurality of arms;

wherein each of the plurality of arms is configured to accommodate a portion of the axle,

wherein an end of the axle includes a flared portion to engage a first outer surface of one of the plurality of arms,

wherein the axle has a deformed portion at an end of the axle opposite the flared portion,

wherein the deformed portion lies on a second outer surface of another of the plurality of arms, and

wherein the second outer surface is not a surface facing a hole or a U-shaped groove to receive the axle, the hole or U-shaped groove being defined by the another of the plurality of arms.

13. (Original) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the axle is configured to accommodate at least a portion of the end effector assembly.

14. (Currently Amended) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the flared portion engages the first outer surface of one of the plurality of arms so as to prevent the axle from moving longitudinally relative to the plurality of arms.

15. (Original) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of arms defines a hole to receive the axle.

16. (Original) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the flared portion is a flange.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Withdrawn) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of arms defines a U-shaped groove to receive the axle.

19. (Withdrawn) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the one of the plurality of arms defines a hole and another of the plurality of arms defines a U-shaped groove, the hole and groove for receiving the axle.

20. (Withdrawn) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the axle includes a second flared portion to engage an outer surface of another of the plurality of arms.

21. (Withdrawn) The medical instrument of claim 12, further comprising a reinforcing portion on at least one of the plurality of arms.

22. (Withdrawn) The medical instrument of claim 21, wherein the reinforcing portion includes a portion of the arm displaced outwardly.

23. (Original) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the end effector assembly further comprises a pair of jaws.

24. (Original) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the handle portion includes an elongate portion and a spool portion slidably disposed around the elongate portion.

25. (Original) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the elongate member includes a jacket covering a hollow coiled portion.

26.-65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the deformed portion is formed after the axle has been placed through the plurality of arms.

67. (Previously Presented) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the deformed portion is formed after the axle has been placed through the plurality of arms.

68. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the first outer surface is directing away from the one of the plurality of arms.

69. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second outer surfaces [[is]] are substantially flat.

70. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second outer surfaces [[is]] are orthogonal to an axis of the axle.

71. (Currently Amended) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the first outer surface is directing away from the one of the plurality of arms.

72. (Currently Amended) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the first and second outer surfaces [[is]] are substantially flat.

73. (Currently Amended) The medical instrument of claim 12, wherein the first
and second outer surfaces ~~[[is]]~~ are orthogonal to an axis of the axle.